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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OMB

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

8 JAN 1976

Honorable James T. Lynn, Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Jim:

I have long felt that this nation's vital foreign intelligence effort has been severely handicapped by the lack of an effective deterrent against the unauthorized disclosure of intelligence sources and methods information. In January 1974, a proposal to amend the National Security Act of 1947 by adding a criminal penalty for the unauthorized disclosure of intelligence sources and methods was submitted to OMB for Executive Branch coordination. This proposal was resubmitted to OMB in April 1975 for submission to the 94th Congress. Since 1974, representatives of this Agency have been working with representatives of the Criminal Division, Department of Justice, to satisfy Justice Department objections to the proposal. By letter of 31 December 1975 (enclosed), Deputy Attorney General Harold R. Tyler, Jr. informed me that, contingent on CIA's acceptance of two minor amendments, the proposal met their concerns, and the Department would not object to the submission of the revised bill to Congress. These amendments have been incorporated into the proposed bill.

I am enclosing a copy of the proposed bill, as agreed to by the Department of Justice. I believe it is imperative that this proposal be submitted to the Congress without further delay. It has been coordinated throughout the Executive Branch and all legitimate objections have been satisfied. The tragic death of CIA officer Richard Welch has focused the Congress' and the nation's attention as never before on the problems the Agency faces in protecting the identities and safety of its assets. We have received calls from congressional offices offering to introduce bills to provide protection for CIA employees. I am most anxious to channel this support to the Intelligence Sources and Methods proposal, and therefore, request that OMB give top priority to clearance of this proposal. You may be assured that changes in our April 1975 legislative package, submitted pursuant to OMB Circular A-19, Revised, will follow shortly.

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In addition, it is my understanding that no decision has been made to include this proposal in the President's 1976 legislative program, as recommended in our letter to Mr. James M. Frey of OMB of 17 October 1975. I do believe this matter is of sufficient import for inclusion in the President's 1976 legislative program, and presentation to Congress in the State of the Union Message.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby
Director

Enclosures

25X1 cc: [redacted]

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